

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

|                                    |   |                  |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| In the Matter of the Suspension of | ) |                  |
|                                    | ) |                  |
| the Educator Certificate of        | ) | CONSENT ORDER OF |
|                                    | ) |                  |
| Edward O. Lewis                    | ) | SUSPENSION       |
|                                    | ) |                  |
| Certificate # 171647               | ) |                  |

### SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this certificate suspension matter on October 12, 2004. On August 21, 2003, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Mr. Edward O. Lewis a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate (certificate) number 171647 on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Said notice was sent by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Lewis received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Lewis subsequently agreed through his attorney, Robert B. Lewis, Esquire, to resolve the case without a hearing. Mr. Lewis agreed to the voluntary suspension of his certificate on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. The suspension period would be for one year commencing on July 1, 2003, and ending December 31, 2004. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the voluntary suspension of Mr. Lewis's certificate upon the terms set forth above.

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| Edward<br>Lewis<br>No.#<br>171647 |
| _____<br>Initial<br>Here          |
| _____<br>Date                     |

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Lewis holds a valid South Carolina certificate with over nine years of teaching experience. On June 30, 2003, Mr. Lewis resigned from Horry County School District pending an investigation of allegations that he purchased alcohol for an eighth grade student at a local restaurant/bar. The eighth grade student was at the bar/restaurant with her mother and a male friend of her mother. Mr.

Lewis acknowledged that he purchased the beer and placed it on an outside deck. The student did not pick up the alcohol. Mr. Lewis agreed that he used poor judgment in this matter and voluntarily resigned from the Horry County School District pending the investigation.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1991). The State Board finds that there is substantial evidence to support its decision to accept the suspension of Ms. Lewis’s certificate #1761647, from July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004, upon the conditions set forth above. At the end of the suspension period, Mr. Lewis’s certificate will be automatically reinstated.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones  
Dr. Mary E. Jones  
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
October 12, 2004

I, Edward O. Lewis, SC Teaching Certificate 171647, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, October 12, 2004.

/S/ Edward O. Lewis      October 7, 2004  
Edward O. Lewis      Date